

**Approved: July 10, 2012**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners Present:** John Becker, Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe, Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

**Commissioners Absent:** Julie Palakovich Carr ,Alicia Hosmer and Beri Kravitz

**Guests:** Mark Charles, Environmental Management

Lea Rosenbohm – Commissioner Applicant

Ming Hu – Commissioner Applicant

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:30 pm by Chair Dighe.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Approval of the May 8, 2012 meeting minutes was moved by Reed and seconded by Lye with two minor corrections. The motion passed 5-0-0.

**Commissioner Vacancy**

Commissioner Candidates Ming Hu and Lea Rosenbohm met with the Commissioners and discussed their interests and the strengths of their candidacy.

**Environmental Excellence Criteria**

Commissioner Becker followed up from his preliminary findings presented at the May meeting and, after substantial discussion, the Commission decided to revise and clarify the existing award criteria. An ad hoc committee of Becker (Chair), Cardon and Dighe was appointed to rough out recommended criteria which should include criteria on good standing.

**Hometown Holidays Debrief**

Commissioners agreed that this Hometown Holidays was one of the best in many years.

Follow up thoughts to remember for next year include:

- The location by the library had lots of traffic and was convenient for directing people to the YERT film, but was a little loud. The nonprofit area may make more sense.
- The YERT film was very successful. There were 50 people at the Friday night VIP screening and 60 attended the two public screenings on Saturday. The Commission intends to do something similar next year; if possible at the Regal Theater. It was probably not necessary to sequence the invitations. The VIP food and music were very much appreciated.
- The prize wheel and solar array powering the rainbarrel were very popular.
- It would be helpful if the booth had a sign similar to other booths.
- Commissioner Kravitz has the Commission table cloths.

### **The Drinking Water “Tap It” Program**

Americans spend over \$11 billion each year on bottled water. Up to 50% of these products are bottled municipal tap water. Many of the bottles wind up as litter on the land and water; or as refuse rather than recycling. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and local water utilities, including Rockville, are partnering with various businesses (restaurants) to allow the public to have a personal water bottle filled with drinking water. The national *Tap It* program was started in 2008 and is active in 28 States. COG is preparing promotional materials. The Commissioners present were interested in helping to recruit area businesses to the program or informing residents of the program’s existence. For more information, see the Tap It website at [tapitwater.com](http://tapitwater.com).

### **Announcements**

The terms of Chair Dighe and Commissioner Kravitz are up on July 1, 2012. If interested in continuing to serve on the Commission, they must turn in a Reapplication Expression of Interest form. Chair Dighe indicated that while he was interested in continuing to serve, he would not seek an additional year as Chair and encouraged other Commissioners to consider serving as Chair. An election for Chair is anticipated once the current vacancy is filled.

Commissioner Lye suggested that Brenda Platt of the Institute of Local Self Reliance be invited to the July meeting to discuss zero waste initiatives.

Chair Dighe suggested that the Commission consider updating its priorities since several substantial ones were recently completed.

### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Becker moved and Reed seconded a motion to deliberate on the Commission Candidates in executive session. The motion passed 5-0-0. During executive session, the relative strengths of the two Commissioner applicants were discussed. However, no decision on a recommended choice was made since three Commissioners were absent. Mark Charles was asked to try to schedule a second opportunity for a meeting prior to the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting (7:00 -7:30 pm).

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm by unanimous acclamation.

### **Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**. The public is invited to attend.